



# Year 5 Newsletter

## Spring 1—2025/2026



### Reading

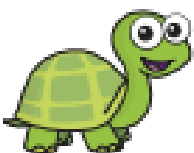
This half term, the children are studying the text 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. The story is set in the early 1900s and follows the journey of a young, orphan girl named Maia as she journeys hundreds of miles up the Amazon River to live with distant relatives in Manaus. When she arrives, she realizes that the family are not like her and she begins to explore the animals, wildlife and people who live along the river.

### Writing

This half term, the children are learning a text called 'Simic'. Here, they will build on skills taught in the Autumn Term to write an action story. Tools which will be focus points include: powerful vocabulary, 'show not tell' and ways to build tension. They will do this in a range of ways: using personification, commas for a list and using a range of openers. We will also build on our knowledge of paragraphing.

### Maths

In maths this half term, the children will be building on their knowledge from the Autumn Term. Reasoning with their multiplication tables to solve problem, as well as building on their fraction knowledge, linking to real life contexts (finding a fraction of an amount for example).



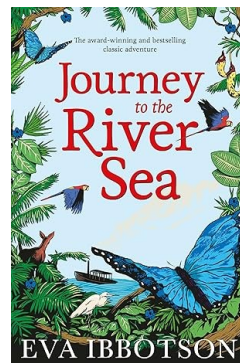
### Key Dates

5th January—INSET

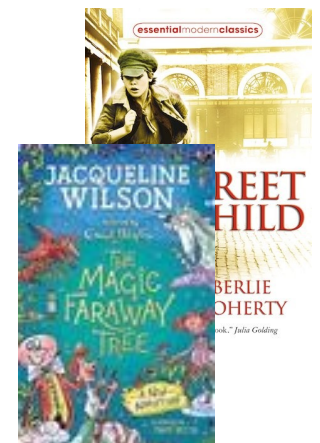
19th January —Fire Safety Talk (rescheduled from Autumn 2)

### Whole Class

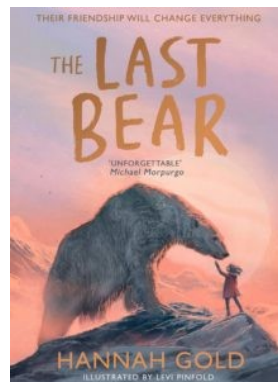
#### Reading



### Class Read



### Suggested Books for Reading



## Science

In science this half term, the main enquiry question is 'How can we classify living things based on their characteristics?'. In this unit, they will be identifying and classifying living things and their habitats. They will need to describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, amphibian, an insect and a bird and describe the life process of reproductions in some plants and animals..

## Geography

In Geography, the children will be continuing to explore the question: 'What are different effects of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest?' Here, they will learn more about Brazil before honing in on the Amazon Rainforest and the Amazon River. They will begin to understand what deforestation is and how it is caused, linking this to the Amazon rainforest in order to answer the Big Question.

## Art

In Art this half term, the children will be looking at painting and using mixed media. They will begin by practising applying their knowledge of colour theory from previous years with more confidence and accuracy before studying the artists Vincent Van Gogh and Njideka Akunyili Croby. They will use what they have learnt from this unit to create their own mixed media paintings.

## PE



In indoor PE this half term, the children will be focusing on footwork through stance static balances. In this unit, the children will develop and apply their stance and footwork through focused skill development sessions, modified/non-traditional games and sports and healthy competition. We will use the skills developed in indoor PE to apply them to OAA/orienteering in outdoor PE.

## RE



In RE this half term, the children's enquiry question is: Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children? In this enquiry, children look at how Jews try to solve any problems that have arisen in the previous year and reflect on how they solve their own problems. Key terms: Rosh Hashanah: Jewish New Year, Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement, Shofar: ram's horn, Challah bread: special bread.

## Music



In music this half term, the children will be creating a composition to represent the festival of colour. Pupils will suggest colours to match a piece of music; create a graphic score and describe how this matches the general structure of a piece of music; create a vocal composition in response to a picture and justify their choices using musical terms; and work as a team to record their own music.

## French

In French this half term, the children will be looking at "Ma famille (My Family). By the end of this unit pupils will have the knowledge and skills to make a presentation about their own/a fictitious family in both spoken and written form in French. They will use their growing knowledge of the possessive in French to articulate their understanding by responding to simple questions and will build on previous learning (e.g. numbers for ages).

## PSHE



In PSHE, the topic is 'Dreams and Goals'. In this Puzzle, they talk about their dreams and goals and how they might need money to help them achieve them. They look at jobs that people they know do and how some jobs pay more money than others, reflecting on what types of jobs they might like to do when they are older. They look at the similarities and differences between their dream/goals and someone from another culture.